GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5092
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000
PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON RAILWAY SAFETY
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have launched an intensive public information campaign on safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the other steps being considered by the Government for safety measures; and

(d) the extent to which these measures will help in reducing the rail accidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Launching of Public Information Campaign on issues related to `Railway Safety` is a continuous exercise being undertaken by Indian Railways. Special emphasis is laid on safety, seeking public cooperation to prevent mishaps at manned and unmanned level crossing, not to carry inflammables during travelling by train. Newspapers, radio, television and allied media are used to publicise themes related to safety and security.

(c) Efforts are also made to prevent accidents by progressively implementing other safety measures listed in the Appendix depending upon the availability of resources

(d) Effectiveness of these measures may be evident from the reduction of accidents which have come down from 1130 in 1981-82 to 397 in 1998-99.

APPENDIX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5092 BY SHR BASAVARAJ TO BE ANSWERED ON 27-04-2000 REGARDING PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON RAILWAY SAFETY.

Brief steps taken to prevent accidents

1. The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on trunk routes and other important main lines.

2. Modification of the signaling circuitry is being carried out to minimize chances of human errors in causing accidents.

3. Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about `signal at danger` to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections.

4. Railway Board has cleared a pilot project of AWS for Tughlaqabad - Mathura section of Central Railway on a trial basis.

5. Walkie-talkie sets have been supplied to drivers and guards of all passenger carrying trains. The same is presently being supplied to drivers and guards of goods trains also.

6. There has been a progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

7. For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometer are being progressively used.

8. For detecting rail fractures and weld failures 96 more double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors are being procured.

9. Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernized and upgraded at many depots.

10. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for deduction of flaws in the axles.

11. Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

12. Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

13. Periodic Safety Audit of different divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from Zonal Headquarters has been introduced.

14. Training facilities of drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernized including use of simulators for training of drivers.

15. Refresher courses are regularly organized at specified intervals.

16. Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

17. Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.